

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 L-03 H-02 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1618

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, ET

SUBJECT: EXPROPRIATED US PROPERTY IN ETHIOPIA : CROWN CORK

REF: STATE 256966 AND PREVIOUS

1. ON OCTOBER 26 COLIN HAYNE, CROWN CORK, NAIROBI OFFICE, CALLED ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUSELOR TO DISCUSS ETHIOPIAN CROWN CORK SITUATION. AFTER REVIEWING PROS AND CONS OF APPROACH BY EMBASSY ON BEHALF OF CROWN CORK, WE AGREED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE, STRESSING CROWN CORK'S DESIRE ON EFFICIENCY GROUNDS TO RETAIN MANAGEMENT CONTROL UNTIL CROWN CORK'S STATUS RE NATIONALIZATION FULLY CLARIFIED. WE ALSO AGREED THAT A REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF NATIONALIZATION ITSELF WOULD BE PRESENTED ON GROUNDS THAT CROWN CORK'S COMPETITION (A COMPANY CALLED ELABRIL), ALSO A PRIVATE FIRM, HAD NOT BEEN NATIONALIZED.
2. ON NOVEMBER 8 ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR PRESENTED FOREGOING POINTS TO ATO WOLLE CHECKOL, HEAD ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT MOFA, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT APPROACH WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF CROWN CORK. HE ALSO STREESSED, IN ADDITION TO POINTS OUTLINED IN PARA 1, THAT CROWN CORK INTENDED TO REINVEST PROFITS IN THE COUNTRY AND THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO MINORITY PARTICIPATION BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

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3. ATO WOLLE TOOK NOT OF THESE POINTS, AGREED TO TAKE UP

CROWN CORK'S CASE WITH APPROPRIATE EPMG OFFICIALS, AND
PROMISED TO ADVISE EMBASSY OF RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.

4. WE SEE LITTLE POINT IN MAKING FURTHER APPROACHES TO OTHER
ELEMENTS OF EPMG AS ATO WOLLE WILL CERTAINLY BE IN TOUCH
WITH THOSE OFFICIALS IN A POSITION TO CONSIDER CROWN CORK'S
REQUEST. WE WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS AS
THEY OCCUR.

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